



## ***Is Your Faith-Based Organization Ready to Partner with Government?***

### **A Decision-Making Checklist with Tips for Preparedness**

***Does your faith-based organization have a plan for how you will help families or individuals?***

***Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

Government projects are based on specific plans and outcomes. Funding proposals should clearly demonstrate a “plan”, expected outcomes, and how your program will produce them.

***Do you feel that your organization has the knowledge, experience, and/or individuals to carry out a project to address the issue being funded? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

Your organization has a right to compete for government funds, but we caution against starting a new program because money is available. It is recommended that you seek funds if it enables you to implement or supplement what you know how to do well.

***Do you have the personnel, policies, procedures, or accounting capacity to sufficiently enable your organization to account for income and expenditures and to monitor and track staff, volunteers, and program participants? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

Government will and should ask you to be accountable for expenditures, program activities, and best practice procedures.

***Does your organization have a plan for program continuation after government assistance ends?***

***Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

Government resources are never permanent. Grants are awarded for specific periods of time and are based on federal legislation and budgetary considerations.

***Do you have separate incorporation for your project? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

It is recommended that your organization establish a separate but faith-based 501c(3) corporation to receive government funds. This is in the best interest of your organization and a separate structure can be designed for effective services for your community.

***Does your organization plan to collaborate and involve other groups with similar programs?***

***Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_***

Government encourages you to explore what others are doing in the community to implement similar projects and to partner with them on initiatives. Collaborative efforts broaden and strengthen services to the target population. Don't waste time or energy trying to reinvent the wheel and avoid duplication of services. If this is the first program of it's kind in your community, get the word out, encourage community involvement, and recruit people who share your interest and can bring experience and resources to the table.